

Claim Amendments

Note: This listing is based on the claims sequence as responded to by the examiner in the third office action and amended according to this present response.

1. (currently amended) A convertible inflatable furnishing which comprises an inflatable base including a base upper skin which forms a layer of the upper side of the base, a base lower skin which forms a layer of the lower side of the base, and a rim side which links the edge of the upper side of the base to the edge of the lower side of the base, an inflatable backrest, a fixing means to fix the backrest to the base upper skin, ~~a first joining means joining the fixing means to the backrest and a second joining means joining the fixing means to the base upper skin~~, and an air passage between the base and the backrest allowing a flow of air between the inside of the base and the inside of the backrest when loads on the base and backrest change;
~~said first joining means and said second joining means are~~ fixing means is non-translocatable;
said fixing means is sufficiently flexible to allow the backrest to recline increasingly with deflation of the backrest including when the backrest is under an increasing load, and allow the backrest to erect increasingly with inflation of the backrest including when the load on the backrest is reducing.

2-4. (canceled)

5. (previously presented) The convertible inflatable furnishing of claim 1 wherein a connecting means is provided completely inside the base to connect a region of the base upper skin to a region of the base lower skin with the connecting means being in tension when the base is substantially inflated and the connecting means having such a length as to constrain horizontal mobility of the base upper skin relative to the base lower skin; wherein the connecting means includes an elastic material to absorb pressure shocks by reducing the maximum tension resulting from sudden loads applied to the furnishing.

6. (canceled).

7. (currently amended) The convertible inflatable furnishing of claim 5 wherein the connecting means includes an elastic material biasing the region of the base upper skin towards the region of the base lower skin, wherein the connecting means is connected to the base upper skin at a location where the front side of the backrest is joined to the base upper skin, or at a location more forward of where the front side of the backrest is joined to the base upper skin, wherein the chosen location is close enough to the front side of the backrest to allow allowing tension in the elastic material to transmit through the base upper skin to the front side of the backrest, the elastic material in tension having a elastic modulus capable of supporting an increased load on the backrest wherein the supporting force tending to maintain erection of the backrest is increased when the base volumetrically expands due to increased pressurization of the base resulting from increased compression of the backrest.

8. (currently amended) The convertible inflatable furnishing of claim 1 wherein a first part of retaining means and a second part of retaining means are provided

~~which and located on the base beside the deflated backrest, or on an exposed surface of the deflated backrest, and~~ can be fastened together to retain the backrest in a substantially deflated state after the air in the backrest is squeezed out of the backrest into the base through the air passage, including when the base is substantially inflated.

9.(previously presented) The convertible inflatable furnishing of claim 8 wherein the deflated backrest can be inserted into the base and retained substantially inside the base including when the base is substantially inflated.

10. (previously presented) The convertible inflatable furnishing of claim 9 wherein the base is sufficiently compact to be fully inserted into the backrest when both are deflated;
wherein a first part of fastening means and a second part of fastening means are provided and can be fastened together to retain the deflated base inside the deflated backrest for the purposes of packing and portability.

11. (canceled)

12.(previously presented) The convertible inflatable furnishing of claim 10 wherein the first part of the fastening means is also the first part of the retaining means and the second part of the fastening means is also the second part of the retaining means.

13. (canceled)

14. (canceled)

15. (previously presented)The convertible inflatable furnishing of claim 5 wherein the bladder is fully enclosed by a cover, the base lower skin and the base upper skin are parts of the cover, and the bladder is of any size and shape that when inflated fills the cover and applies tension substantially throughout the cover so that the shape of the cover substantially determines the shape of the furnishing.

16. (previously presented) The convertible inflatable furnishing of claim 15 wherein the inflated bladder is tubular with sealed ends and the axis of the tubular bladder is curved in a substantially planar path surrounding the connecting means and the bladder is sufficiently long that a region of the bladder in the vicinity of one sealed end of the bladder abuts a region of the bladder in the vicinity of the other sealed end of the bladder.

17. (canceled)

18.(previously presented) The convertible inflatable furnishing of claim 16 wherein a first bladder end protrudes upward into the backrest when the backrest is erect, and the first bladder end is shaped similarly to and larger than the backrest so that the inflation of the first bladder end rapidly erects the backrest when a load is applied to the base and the retaining means is released.

19. (previously presented) The convertible inflatable furnishing of claim 18 wherein a nozzle for inflation and deflation of the bladder is positioned near the first bladder end and the nozzle is fixed to the cover directly below the backrest on the base, or on the backrest to assist in locating the first bladder end in the backrest.

20. (previously presented) The convertible inflatable furnishing of claim 18 wherein a nozzle for inflation and deflation of the bladder is positioned near the first bladder end and the nozzle is fixed to the connecting means directly below the backrest to assist in locating the first bladder end in the backrest.

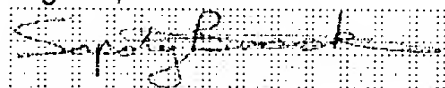
21. (canceled)

22. (new) The convertible inflatable furnishing of claim 1 wherein a first part of retaining means and a second part of retaining means are provided and located on the base beside the deflated backrest, or on an exposed surface of the deflated backrest, and can be fastened together to retain the backrest in a substantially deflated state after the air in the backrest is squeezed out of the backrest into the base through the air passage; wherein the deflated backrest can be inserted into the base and retained substantially inside the base;
wherein the volume of air in the inflated backrest is sufficient to vary the inflation of the base from firm when the backrest is empty to soft when the backrest is full;

23. (new) The convertible inflatable furnishing of claim 1 wherein a first part of retaining means and a second part of retaining means are provided and located on the base beside the deflated backrest, or on an exposed surface of the deflated backrest, and can be fastened together to retain the backrest in a substantially deflated state after the air in the backrest is squeezed out of the backrest into the base through the air passage; wherein the deflated backrest can be inserted into the base and retained substantially inside the base;
wherein the outer shape of the base has a horizontal breadth enabling the base, when rotated onto the rim side, to support the torso of a person at a height where massage and other body manipulation and stretching are facilitated;

24. (new) The convertible inflatable furnishing of claim 1 wherein a first part of retaining means and a second part of retaining means are provided and located on the base beside the deflated backrest, or on an exposed surface of the deflated backrest, and can be fastened together to retain the backrest in a substantially deflated state after the air in the backrest is squeezed out of the backrest into the base through the air passage; wherein the deflated backrest can be inserted into the base and retained substantially inside the base;
wherein the outer shape of the base upper skin has a horizontal width, transverse to the usual direction of sitting, enabling the base upper skin to puff upward beside the outer sides of a sitter's thighs thereby providing armrests.

Best wishes for your Autumn,
Regards,



Sapoty Brook

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Re: Application No. 09/836,677; Filing Date 17 April 2001; Art Unit 3636; Applicant: Brook, Sapoty.

The following are some illustrative photos that you may find useful:



Backrest packed inside base.

Packing backrest inside base.

Regards,

Sapoty Brook

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